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Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 SY-05 ISO-00 OPR-02 AID-05 SCCT-01 EB-07

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3451
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C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0438

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC SOCI PINS AO
SUBJECT: SECURITY: REMOVAL OF DEPENDENTS

PRETORIA FOR RSO

1. SUMMARY. THE INCIDENCE OF CRIMES AND VIOLENT ACTS AGAINST WHITES IS ON THE INCREASE. THE SITUATION PROBABLY WILL DETERIORATE FURTHER AND A NUMBER OF U.S. FIRMS OPERATING IN ANGOLA HAVE EITHER REMOVED DEPENDENTS OR PLAN TO DO SO WITHIN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. THE STATUS OF DEPENDENTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IS DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE AND THE POST RECOMMENDS AN OPTIONAL POLICY ON SEPARATE MAINTENANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. UPON MY ARRIVAL IN LUANDA I INSTITUTED MONTHLY MEETINGS WITH THE MANAGERS OF AMERICAN COMPANIES HERE. I HAD SEVERAL REASONS FOR DOING SO: TO KEEP THEM ABREAST OF DEVELOPMENTS ON SECURITY MATTERS AND TO GIVE THEM SHORT TERM ASSESSMENTS OF THE PROSPECTS FOR VIOLENCE; TO DISCUSS EVACUATION PROCEDURES; TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ABOUT POSSIBLE THREATS TO AMERICANS; AND TO PROMOTE A SPIRIT OF COOPERATION AND KEEP RUMORS TO A MINIMUM.
AS MOST AMERICANS IN LUANDA WORK FOR A COMPANY, THE MANAGERS
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WITH WHOM I MEET REPRESENT THE GREAT MAJORITY OF U.S.

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CITIZENS RESIDING IN LUANDA.

3. IT BECAME APPARENT EARLY IN OUR MEETINGS WHEN WE TALKED ABOUT EVACUATION THAT SOME OF THE COMPANIES HAD DECIDED TO ADOPT A CONSERVATIVE POLICY AND WOULD REMOVE DEPENDENTS BEFORE THINGS DETERIORATED TO THE POINT WHERE AN EVACUATION WOULD BE REQUIRED. THE GULF OIL COMPANY AND ONE OF ITS CONTRACTORS SENT ALL THEIR DEPENDENTS TO JOHANNESBURG IN NOVEMBER, 1974, DURING A WAVE OF VIOLENCE THAT HIT LUANDA AND THEY ARE STILL THERE. IN THE WAKE OF SERIOUS VIOLENCE IN LATE MARCH OTHER AMERICAN FIRMS HAVE DECIDED TO GRADUALLY REMOVE DEPENDENTS AND, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, TO TRANSFER EMPLOYEES WITH FAMILIES AND REPLACE THEM WITH SINGLE MEN.

4. AT MY MEETING WITH BUSINESSMEN ON THE FIRST OF APRIL, WE DISCUSSED THE CONTINUING DECLINE IN SECURITY AND THE INCREASE IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING WHITES. LATER, ON APRIL 11 AND 14, I CALLED IN THE MANAGERS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES ON THEIR PLANS AND TO GIVE THEM MORE DETAILS ON THE INTERNAL SECURITY SITUATION. I PROMISED I WOULD HOLD IN CONFIDENCE ANY INFORMATION THEY GAVE ME. THE PICTURE THAT EMERGED FROM THE TALKS IS MIXED, BUT THE TREND IS DEFINITELY TO MOVE OUT DEPENDENTS DURING THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. TEXACO HAS RECOMMENDED TO ITS HOME OFFICE THAT DEPENDENTS BE REMOVED BY MID-OCTOBER, WHEN THE COMPANY EXPECTS MATTERS TO BE VERY TENSE, KEEP THEM OUT UNTIL DECEMBER AND THEN REVIEW THE SITUATION BEFORE DECIDING TO BRING THEM BACK. AMOCO AND SUNOCO ARE KEEPING A CLOSE WATCH ON THINGS BUT DO NOT PLAN TO REMOVE DEPENDENTS UNLESS THINGS DETERIORATE FURTHER. HALLIBURTON WILL PHASE OUT ALL DEPENDENTS IN ABOUT SIXTY DAYS. CORE LABORATORIES HAS NINE EXPATRIATES (FOUR AMERICANS), ALL SINGLE EXCEPT THE MANAGER, WHOSE WIFE IS HERE. SCHULMBERGER, A FRENCH FIRM, WILL REPLACE ALL ITS MARRIED EMPLOYEES WITH SINGLE MEN AND DOES NOT PLAN TO HAVE FAMILIES HERE AGAIN UNTIL SOMETIME IN 1976.

5. THE DEPENDENTS REMAINING IN LUANDA ARE FINDING LIFE INCREASINGLY UNPLEASANT; GOODS AND SERVICES ARE IN SHORT SUPPLY; SOCIAL LIFE IS PRACTICALLY NIL; CHILDREN HAVE FEW PLAYMATES; CONSTANT FEAR EXISTS ABOUT THE SAFETY OF WIVES AND CHILDREN, AS HOUSEBREAKING AND STREET VIOLENCE ARE WIDESPREAD; RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, NEVER NUMERIOUS, ARE NOW MUCH REDUCED. IF THE ENGLISH SCHOOL DOES NOT
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REOPEN IN SEPTEMBER, A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY, THINGS WILL BE BLEAK, INDEED. TO HELP COMPENSATE FOR THE DETERIORATION IN CONDITIONS SOME COMPANIES HAVE INSTITUTED ADDED BENEFITS. TEXACO PAYS FOR A ROUND TRIP TICKET TO JOHANNESBURG EVERY THREE MONTHS FOR EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES AND ALSO ALLOWS FREE TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE U.S. PERIODICALLY.
6. THE CURRENT SITUATION PUTS THE DEPENDENTS OF U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN A BAD SITUATION. I CANNOT SAY THAT THINGS ARE SO

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BAD THEY SHOULD BE EVACUATED, NOR SHOULD NEWLY ASSIGNED PERSONNEL BE PROHIBITED FROM BRINGING THEIR FAMILIES. ON THE OTHER HAND, LIFE HERE IS DIFFICULT AND WILL BECOME WORSE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. IF, AS I EXPECT, THE PUBLIC SECURITY SITUATION GETS EVEN WORSE AND BLACKS INCREASINGLY SEEK OUT WHITES TO VENT THEIR FRUSTRATIONS OR TAKE REVENGE FOR PAST WRONGS, THE PROBABILITY OF HARM COMING TO AMERICANS WILL RISE SHARPLY. SOME DEPENDENTS CANNOT TAKE THE STRAIN OF CONSTANT TENSION, WORRY ABOUT PHYSICAL SAFETY, LACK OF SOCIAL LIFE AND A SCARCITY OF GOODS; OTHERS SEEM NOT TO MIND AND PREFER, IN FACT TO REMAIN AT POST. IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERING CAPABILITY OF PEOPLE TO COPE WITH THE TYPE OF SITUATION WE ARE NOW IN, I SUGGEST THE DEPARTMENT ALLOW THE EMPLOYEES TO DECIDE WHETHER TO BRING THEIR FAMILIES AND PROVIDE SEPARATE MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE THAT REMAIN AT HOME.

7. THE LATEST REPORTED INCIDENTS INVOLVING WHITES ARE AS FOLLOWS: AT SOME POINT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS TWO WHITE WOMEN AND A MAN WERE REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED WHEN BLACKS ROLLED A GRENADE UNDER THE TABLE OF A SIDEWALK CAFE; FNLA GUARDS AT THE A PROVINCIA NEWSPAPER MANHANDLED THE WIFE OF THE DUTCH CONSUL; ON APRIL 18 BLACKS ATTACKED AND ROBBED WHITES AT THE CENTRAL MARKET IN THE HEART OF LUANDA AFTER A VEHICLE DRIVEN BY A WHITE STRUCK A BLACK WOMAN. ALMOST ALL AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGNERS USE THE MARKET. KILLORAN

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